

Hawai'i Medical Education Council (HMEC) Meeting

January 30, 2023, 7:30-9:00 a.m.

651 Ilalo Street, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Medical Education Building #202 and via Zoom

Voting Members Present (10): Mary Ann Antonelli (representing the federal healthcare sector), Lee Buenconsejo-Lum (Chair, Acting Dean, JABSOM), Kenneth Fink (Director, State of Hawai'i, Department of Health), Katherine Finn Davis (for Interim Dean Clementina Ceria-Ulep, representing Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing), Colleen Inouye (representing the health professions community), COL Judy Kovell (representing a hospital conducting ACGME programs), Lisa Rantz (representing a person of the general public), Linda Rosen (representing the health professions community), Susan Steinemann (standing in as representative for pending Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and is the current Designated Institutional Official (DIO) & Graduate Medical Education (GME) Director, JABSOM), Naoto Ueno (Director UH Cancer Center), and Ivica Zalud (for Leslie Chun, representing a hospital conducting ACGME programs).

Voting Members Absent (3): Todd Seto (representing a hospital conducting ACGME programs). Pending approval (representing the health professions community), and pending recruitment (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, JABSOM).

Public Attendees: Matthew Campbell (Communications & Media Director, JABSOM), Auli'i Dudoit (Deputy Executive Director, Hawai'i Residency Programs (HRP)), Chip Ellis (CFO, University Health Partners (UHP)), Aimee Grace (Director of UH System Office of Strategic Health Initiatives), Lynn Iwamoto (Assistant DIO, JABSOM), Lorrin Kim (Chief Policy Officer & Legislative Coordinator, State of Hawai'i, Department of Health), Miriam Mobley Smith (Interim Dean, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, University of Hawai'i, Hilo), Cynthia Nakamura (Government Affairs & Legislative Consultant, JABSOM), Holly Olson (Deputy DIO, JABSOM), Danny Takanishi (Professor of Surgery, JABSOM), Natalie Talamoa (Executive Director, HRP), Brayden Wacker (Administrative Officer, Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, JABSOM), Kelley Withy (Director, AHEC), and Derek Wong (Interim CEO, UHP).

HMEC Administrator: Lee Buenconsejo-Lum **Recorder:** Crystal Costa, Program Specialist, GME/Office of the DIO, JABSOM

1. Review of Minutes – HMEC Chair	Minutes from the last meeting held on 10/24/22 were approved. The motion for approval came from Dr. Mary Ann Antonelli and was seconded by Dr. Susan Steinemann. Voting was conducted by raising hands for those in person and using the “raise hand” feature for those attending via Zoom. No abstentions.	
2. Public Comment Period	No comments during this time.	
3. HMEC Chair Report	<p><u>Report from HMEC Chair (Acting Dean L. Buenconsejo-Lum)</u></p> <p>Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum welcomed members and guests to the new year, followed by a full verbal listing of attendees and their roles. A few with new titles and invited guests were acknowledged: Dr. Fink as the new Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health, Dr. Danny Takanishi who will be the next Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (JABSOM), Dr. Miriam Mobley Smith, Interim Dean of the College of Pharmacy (UH Hilo), Dr. Naoto Ueno as the new Director of the UH Cancer Center, and Brayden Wacker as the new Administrative Officer for the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (JABSOM).</p> <p>3.a. Graduate Medical Education (GME)-Related State Legislation Updates</p> <p>Cynthia Nakamura, JABSOM’s Government Affairs and Legislative Consultant, provided updates on legislation leadership, budgets, loan repayment, the preceptor tax credit, and legislative priorities relating to JABSOM.</p>	Ongoing updates.

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The legislature opened on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. As a result of the recent elections, new chairs have been appointed to some of the key committees that JABSOM frequently interacts with:

1. House Health and Homelessness: Della Belatti, Chair
2. House Finance: Kyle Yamashita, Chair
3. House Higher Education: Amy Perusso, Chair
4. Senate Health: Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
5. Senate Higher Education: Donna Kim, Chair
6. Senate Ways and Means: Donovan Dela Cruz.

Budget: JABSOM requested \$2 million and 4.0 FTE to support medical education (GME and UME) training on the neighbor islands. This was included in the UH budget and also reflected in the Governor’s budget.

Loan Repayment (HB 661, SB 164): JABSOM’s loan repayment bills seek state funds for \$1 million to match the federal grant that Dr. Kelley Withy and her team have obtained. Senator Keohokalole has also introduced SB 689.

Preceptor Tax Credit (HB 1450 and SB 1215): Work continues since the last session to amend the preceptor tax credit law. Amendments will adjust the definition of “preceptor” to include specialty providers who provide training to future primary care clinicians, in addition to preceptors of physician assistants, social workers, and registered dietitians. Representative Kapela also introduced a preceptor tax credit bill, HB 82, which was the last session’s version of the bill and did not contain all the amendments that the Preceptor Tax Credit Assurance Committee agreed upon. This bill is scheduled for hearing on Wednesday, 2/1/2023 in the House Health and Homelessness Committee. JABSOM will be asking that HB 82 be amended to use the language from HB 1450 instead.

Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum added that the “HMEC special fund” is being reconsidered to provide an option for monies to flow that will be used to provide support paying for residency program expansions to the neighbor islands. Information will be distributed when available. All are encouraged to monitor the bills mentioned and submit testimonies to support JABSOM and HMEC recommendations.

As a recap, last year’s base budget increase included \$1.67M and 6.0 full-time equivalents (FTEs) faculty positions to support neighbor island education expansion. These FTEs have been split in a variety of ways to provide leadership in a variety of medical education curricular areas, faculty development, learner support, and including eight new 0.25 FTE neighbor island faculty. The separate \$6.7 million one-time appropriation from Act 262 is supporting resident rotations, faculty who have been involved in developing or implementing neighbor island curriculum and rotations, space and other items (supplies, equipment for simulation and training, etc.) that will be used for training residents when they rotate to neighbor islands and/or help better prepare them for practice in more remote locations. Discussions continue with Director Adam Robinson from the Veterans Affairs (VA) Pacific Islands Health Care System, as some of the funds from Act 262 are to support the expansion of VA training sites. JABSOM has identified current non-compensated faculty who teach and supervise directly at VA locations, and JABSOM is working with the VA to identify possibilities for faculty in the neighbor island VA clinics. With the help of Dr. Mary Ann Antonelli (HMEC member), updates will be provided as they become available.

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	<p><u>GME updates (Dr. Susan Steinemann)</u></p> <p>3.b.i. The Executive Summary of the GME Annual Institutional Report and action plan were presented and approved by the UH Board of Regents in January 2023. Engagement with the health systems will focus on the alignment of the action plan with priorities aimed at faculty development and quality and patient safety initiatives.</p> <p>3.b.ii. Possible GME program expansions will be discussed at an upcoming GME strategic planning event in the coming months. The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021 enabled 1,000 additional GME positions by CMS over a five-year period; an additional 200 slots for psychiatry was recently enacted. Some of the current affiliated health systems are eligible to apply and are hoping to obtain new CMS positions to help expand GME to the neighbor islands. As the financing of excellent GME programs is complex and should be done through a statewide lens, JABSOM would like the different health systems to work together on new or expanded programs that include neighbor island experiences as much as feasible given specialty training requirements. Family Medicine submitted a HRSA planning grant for a rural training track or full program of Kaua'i. If awarded, the funding will provide start-up and time to develop a full proforma and ACGME application.</p> <p>The GME strategic planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for 4/22/23 and will include GME stakeholders from throughout the state to help create a shared mental model on areas for prioritization. Dr. Buenconsejo-Lum emphasized to the Council that the hospitals are the ones applying for the CMS positions/funding as that is how most resident positions are funded. However, Programs will need to meet the requirements of completing 50% or more training in a federally designated rural area. Priority is, in part, determined by Health Profession Shortage Area (HPSA) scores. While all neighbor islands have "rural" designations, there are many nuances to the application and Hawai'i tends to have lower HPSA scores as the scoring and determination system does not account for our island geography. JABSOM wants to ensure that other health systems (besides the one applying) have an opportunity to get involved early as proposals are being developed. Dr. Linda Rosen, HMEC member and President and CEO of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), offered support for expansion to neighbor islands and confirmed that HHSC would participate in GME strategic planning efforts. This includes supporting potential rotations at the Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital (KVMH) and the Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital (SMMH) on Kaua'i. Lisa Rantz mentioned that the Hawai'i Island Family Medicine Residency Program was designed as a rural program for the state of Hawai'i (not just Hawai'i island), so is looking for partnership opportunities for the Hilo Family Medicine Residency Program to expand.</p>	
<p>4. Physician Workforce Data Updates & Synergies</p>	<p><u>Federal Appropriations and GME Financing Update (Dr. Aimee Grace)</u></p> <p>The AAMC continues pushing the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act which aims to increase GME slots. The enacted CAA of 2021 still has some implementation challenges with CMS, which the AAMC is providing guidance. The Democratic version of the Build Back Better (BBB) draft stalled and while earlier drafts would have included 4,000 new GME slots, there still was no special consideration for Hawai'i despite advocacy efforts for non-contiguous areas or inclusion of hospitals affiliated with minority-serving institutions. GME was ultimately not included in the final Inflation Reduction Act. The Senate Finance Committee's behavioral health workforce draft included 400 GME slots, which are targeted for the following categories, and 200 new slots were included in the final FY23 omnibus bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rural teaching hospitals ● Teaching hospitals over their caps ● Teaching hospitals in states with new medical schools or branch campuses 	<p>Ongoing Updates.</p>

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- Hospital serving Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
- Hospitals located in areas with less than 27 residents per 100,000 people

JABSOM continues to request language in future versions of bills that account for our non-contiguous geography and status as a minority-serving institution. The language insertions would move Hawai'i up higher on the prioritization for new CMS positions. JABSOM continues advocacy with the Hawai'i Congressional delegation, the AAMC, the Senate Finance Committee, and other leads.

The Rural Health Research and Policy Center (Dr. Aimee Grace)

The appropriated \$1M grant awarded in September 2022 has a goal to produce actionable, evidence-based policy strategies that address Hawai'i's rural health challenges. The Center now has three (3) new staff members focusing on federal Medicare reimbursement, HPSA score challenges in non-contiguous areas, and more.

The FY23 House MilCon/VA bill included \$5M to establish a VA Center for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and United States-Affiliated Pacific Islanders (NHPIUSAPI) to focus on research, data collection and practice improvement. Work remains to bring this to fruition.

The UH Health Workforce Initiative (UH legislative request) includes 60 positions to support faculty and staff to meet non-physician health profession shortage areas.

Physician Workforce Updates (Dr. Kelley Withy)

Making 30 loan repayments this year through the Federal program. Also developing an innovative loan repayment program (for those that do not meet the federal criteria). An information packet is being created to highlight the needs of 700 doctors, 999 nurses, and 3,000 other allied healthcare professionals throughout the state. Telehealth specialists are needed to support Maui County (financial stipends available for a period) and can connect with Dr. Withy for more information. Additional information relating to the Access to Care project will be provided at future HMEC meetings as available by Lisa Rantz.

Overall, to meet workforce needs, many initiatives are ongoing:

1. Reaching out via mail to all JABSOM graduates on the Continent.
2. Identifying the best national conferences to attend to maximize recruitment outreach.
3. Supporting and leveraging the 30+ loan recipients expected this year (2023). The Governor is promising additional funding, so please encourage everyone with educational loan debt to contact Dr. Withy to determine and explore eligibility options.
4. Administrative simplification, working with HMSA, Queens, HPH and others to help reduce these burdens.
 - a. The HMSA gold card is back, called "Fast Pass". Contact HMSA if you don't have it.
 - b. There is a single Prior Authorization form designed for four major Hawai'i insurances.
 - c. UH is working on finding Information Technology support to create a more user-friendly HMSA website to help identify the CPT codes and type of insurance to determine if prior authorization is needed, and if so, what documents are required.
 - d. HMSA phone lines have been outsourced, and they are working to make things faster.
 - e. Pharmacy calls – having access to the "Real Time Benefits Program" should help, but if not, additional strategies are being reviewed to streamline prescription callbacks and know what is covered for a patient.

	<p>f. HMSA continues to cover patient travel from the neighboring islands and is preparing simple instructions for access.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The 2023 Health Workforce Summit is on September 9, 2023, this year, please mark your calendars. 6. Surveys are going out to providers regarding prioritizing their most important administrative challenges and the cost of having an office in Hawai'i. The information would be used to advocate for higher Medicare reimbursement rates. 7. Creation of a collaborative group with representatives from the DOE, HAH, UH, UHCC, and AHEC to create a "one-stop-shop" for all student and teacher resources and host a statewide meeting for teachers and counselors about future health careers. The March meeting of counselors will be an early step and AHEC will make sure the counselors get available resources to help support pipeline efforts. <p><u>Preceptor Tax Credit Update (Dr. Kelley Withy)</u> Special thanks were expressed to Lorrin Kim for signing all tax documents for preceptors. The partnership with the Department of Health continues to support many educational efforts. The 2022 estimated numbers are as follows: 660 credits were awarded to 309 providers, which is up from 559 credits to 253 preceptors last year (2021).</p>	
6. Public comment	No comments during this time.	
7. Additional Items	Next HMEC meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:30 am, location JABSOM Medical Education Building Room 202 and via Zoom.	
8. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Interim Dean Buenconsejo-Lum at 8:39 am.	

Minutes Approved: CC, 4/24/23 (Recorders Initials & Date)

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